

Kennard CJA

St. Louis Public Schools

1/17/2017

Dr. Wanda LeFlore, Principal

SLPS – FULLY ACCREDITED

We have exciting news to share with you! The Missouri State Board of Education has demonstrated its confidence in Saint Louis Public Schools and the significant improvements we have made by voting today to restore Full Accreditation to the District.

Reaching this milestone has taken nine years and unwavering dedication by students, staff, community partners and you – our amazing parents and guardians. Above all else, we believe our students can achieve, and they continue to prove it. So, what does this mean for you and your family? This vote means we have reached a level of success worth recognizing. We have met benchmarks set by the state, sustained our progress and are many steps closer to our Number 1 goal of creating a system of excellent schools for all students. This means:

- Your child attends school in a safer, renovated building now that hazards have been removed, technology has been updated, and air conditioning has been installed in all schools;
- Your child's teacher receives more support, including mentorship from experienced educators and professional development, to provide the best education he or she can;

- Our youngest learners are entering kindergarten more ready than ever before, and twice as many have access to our high quality early childhood education program than they did nine years ago;

- All of our high school students now receive college counseling and have access to dual-credit, dual-enrollment and/or Advanced Placement courses.

While we do recognize the importance of noting milestones – and this certainly is a significant one – please know we will not truly celebrate until we are confident we are serving every child to the best of our ability. This is a pause, not a period. We certainly have room to improve, and every stakeholder of SLPS will be encouraged and expected to play a role.

Thank you for entrusting your child to the capable hands of SLPS teachers, principals and support staff. Thank you, also, for supporting public education in St. Louis. We are dedicated to providing an excellent educational experience for your child and every child. Your partnership is essential to



- Friday, January 20
Movie Night
- Monday, January 23
PJs for Police
- Saturday, January 28
U City Equations
- Wednesday,
February 1 Acuity
Testing
- Friday, February 3
Progress Report
- Friday, February 10
School Dance
- Friday, February 17
PD Day No School
- Monday, February 20
Presidents' Day
No School
- Thursday, February
23 NEHS Induction
- Friday, February 24
Talent Show (3-5)
- Monday, February 27
Black History (3rd)

our success. Thank you.
Dr. Kelvin Adams



Charlotte Anania
Sylvia Beffa
Jacob Belgeri
Jeremiah Bell
Emerson Brown
Braxton Bruemmer
Lucy Buchanan
Franklin Buckeridge
Daniel Chakvetadze
Caia Coleman
Ariya Couch
Konrad Cummiskey
Stella Cummiskey
Lauren Custis
Keion Darby
Audra Davis
Lily Deaton
Yuhan Deng
Trevia Erhard
Lucy Fuchs
Elle Hamilton
Ryan Hill
Jaylah Hobson
Xavier Holmes
Andrew Kabat

Benjamin Koebbe
Alice Kovarik
Hannah Kovarik
Chloe Lang
Tyler Little
Benjamin Luetkemeyer
Lucy Luetkemeyer
Eric Luo
Jaydon Marley
Tyleah McCarter
Saoirse Meng
Mabel Metzger
Eli Murch
Noah Murch
John Nashmi
Tommy Nguyen
Rose O'Leary
Caris Ong
Thomas Pitlyk
Stella Putnam
Prakash Ramakrishnan
Milan Randle
Sarika Rizal
Jessie Sapp
Kenley Satcher
Gerald Schweiger
Cameron Shatto
Christianna Solanke
Ajaya Spann
Andrew Su
Louisa Sullivan

Curtis Sweat
Philip Thomas
Vivan Truong
William Truong
Josh Keoshkerian
Pearl Viles
Kennedy West
Collin White
Mason Wilson
Beatrice Ann Woods
Alina Yong
Tracy Zhou

These students had Perfect Attendance for the 1st Semester of the 2016.2017 school year. They received certificates, bracelets, or pencils honoring their accomplishments. Please congratulate our students and thank the Attendance Team (Christie, Humphreys, Mitchell, & Shiver-Jones) for their daily support!

Congratulations Ellen Trinity and her students who had the classroom with the highest 2nd Quarter Attendance Percentage!

- 1st Quarter: Mackenzie Rouse
- 2nd Quarter: Ellen Trinity – 98.41%



5th Grader Joshua Keoshkerian is the winner of **Kennard's 2017 Annual Spelling Bee**. Josh will participate in the Written Semi-Final Spelling Bee for all divisions held at McKendree University. Kudos to Ms. Batres, Mr. Clement, Ms. Silver-Betts, and Ms. Spitznagel for coordinating the spelling bee! Good Luck Josh!

The Black History Program presented by the 3rd grade classes is **Monday, February 27** at 9:30am. This year's theme is **21st Century African-American Women in Science, Math, and Technology**. Please join us and contact Ms. Annette Silver-Betts for more information.

The **2nd Semester Box Tops for Education** contest begins this month (January 2017) and will include **Tyson A+ labels**. Sponsored by the PTO, and managed by Myra Belgeri and Jessica Shatto, box tops are collected to earn cash for our school. Thanks Ms. Shatto for the beautiful poster you designed to publicize this event!

Breakfast Book Club: Feeding Bodies and Minds: Every school wants to foster a love of reading in its students, but how can one more reading activity fit into an already packed educational day? Some schools are catching kids in the morning, before classes begin. These "**Breakfast Book Clubs**" encourage students to love reading and share their thoughts about what they have read with their peers. 2nd semester enrollment for the Breakfast Book Club is currently open until all slots are filled. The 4th grade students will meet on Tuesdays and the 5th grade students will meet on Thursdays. All meetings are held in the library. Feel free to contact librarian Brenda Kukay at www.brenda.kukay@slps.org for additional information.

Character Education Core Value Survey Results: Thanks for your cooperation and patience as our learning community completed the process for selecting core values that will be serve as the foundation for our character education initiative. Look for these values as we solicit your support to integrate them into our curriculum. The four core values selected were:

- **Honesty: Truthfulness and sincerity; free from deception**
- **Kindness: Being gentle, willing to help, friendly, courteous, and considerate**
- **Respect: Showing regard for the worth of someone or something**
- **Responsibility: Taking care of one's self and others; to carry out a duty or task carefully and thoroughly**

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Below are the results of the Tiger Family Survey that students, families, and staff responded to at the end of the 2015.2016 school year. We appreciate your input and suggestions that were used to improve our character initiative.

PARENTS

I talk with my child about "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids."

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree	
1.49% (1)	14.93% (10)	22.39% (15)	46.27% (31)	14.93% (10)	67

"The 7 Habits of Happy Kids' Parent Corner" newsletters are helpful.

2.99% (2)	7.46% (5)	28.36% (19)	38.81% (26)	22.39% (15)	67
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Tiger Families is a worthwhile program.

0% (0)	2.99% (2)	11.94% (8)	23.88% (16)	61.19% (41)	67
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Total Respondents 67

TEACHERS

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response Total
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I enjoy Tiger Family meetings.

0% (0)	0% (0)	14.81% (4)	37.04% (10)	48.15% (13)	27
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I incorporate "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" in my classroom.

0% (0)	3.7% (1)	7.41% (2)	66.67% (18)	22.22% (6)	27
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"The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" lessons are effective for teaching the traits to multi-age Tiger Families.

0% (0)	3.7% (1)	11.11% (3)	55.56% (15)	29.63% (8)	27
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Total Respondents 27

STUDENTS

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response Total
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I enjoy Tiger Family meetings.

7.94% (10)	6.35% (8)	15.08% (19)	37.3% (47)	33.33% (42)	126
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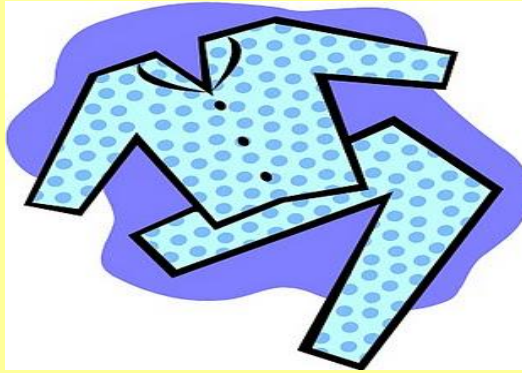
Tiger Families make me feel like a part of the Kennard CJA family.

6.35% (8)	9.52% (12)	19.84% (25)	34.92% (44)	29.37% (37)	126
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I share the traits I learn in Tiger Family meetings with my family at home.

14.06% (18)	20.31% (26)	18.75% (24)	36.72% (47)	10.16% (13)	128
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Total Respondents 128



Tiger Family Service Learning Project: Pajamas (PJs) for Police!

The Tiger Family Committee invites you to show your support for our police officers by making a small donation to wear your pajamas or anything blue to school on **Monday, January 23rd**. Donating is optional; however, every little amount helps! The donation can even be as small as \$0.05. All proceeds will benefit BackStoppers, an organization that supports families of fallen police officers. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting our police officers as we continue our character journey at Kennard CJA!

3rd Grade Service Learning Project: Ms. Recke's class will host their **Annual Bake Sale on Friday, March 3rd** this school year. This year a nut-free area will be available and all purchases will be bagged for take home or after-school consumption. Donations will be used to support a family in need. Feel free to contact Carolyn Recke for additional information.

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (The Club) are providing free chess lessons to all Kennard students in grades 1 thru 4 beginning **Thursday, January 19**. The chess schedule will align with the drama schedule so that there is minimum interruption to the regular schedule. Students will learn the fundamentals of chess that promote essential academic skills. The 50 minute classes on Thursdays will consist of both interactive lectures and practice play. An after-school Chess Club is currently being organized by Chad Beffa. Feel free to contact Chad for additional information.

Coding at Kennard: Beginning this semester, all students in grades 2-5 will have the opportunity to code using the SCRATCH programming language developed by MIT. Programmers at MIT used a design-centric approach to develop a kid-friendly programming language that would engage children ages 8-16 who would not ordinarily see themselves as computer programmers. The developers wanted to find a way to allow kids to become fluent in digital technology because while they already knew how to "read" it, not many of them had experience "writing" technology. The LEGO® Education WeDo Construction Set will also be used by Kennard students. Coding will be taught during technology under the guidance of Laurie Batres. For additional information contact Laurie Batres or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ywG6lv9mFLI?rel=0> or <https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/>.



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Please join us for the **National Education Association's 20th Annual Read Across America** program! Once again the Young Lawyers Division of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) will bring members of the legal profession from the St. Louis area into our first grade classrooms on **Thursday, March 2, 2017** to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday and promote the importance of reading to our students. All students will receive a special treat!

The Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM) - Celebrates Gifted Education Week

Kennard 4th graders will participate in the celebration at the Capitol for Gifted Education Day on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**. Support gifted education by visiting www.mogam.org for more advocacy tips. Please feel free to contact any 4th grade teacher for additional information about the upcoming special event.

Girls on the Run (GOTR): Registration opens on January 23 through February 22 with practices starting Tuesday, February 28. Practices will be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15am to 8:45am. GOTR equips girls with confidence and tools that empower them for a lifetime of healthy living! At the end of the season, girls in the program will participate in a 5K on May 13! This is a program for girls in 3rd - 5th grade. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer as a coach, practice partner, or other feel free to contact Tricia Moyer: mtricia@triciamoyer.org.

Interim Progress Reports: Only students achieving less than 80% in any subject area (including related arts) will receive an Interim Progress Report on **Friday, February 3**. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have additional questions.

The **Jump Rope for Heart** event will take place at Kennard during the week of **February 27, 2017**. Students will jump rope the 2nd day of that week during PE class. It's also the last day to submit funds or make an online donation. The funds donated are used by the American Heart Association to conduct research to fight heart disease. Students will receive donation envelopes (checks or money orders please) and directions for online donations later this month or in early February. This year, students will receive zoo animals as bonus prizes for their contributions. Please feel free to contact the PE teacher, Jim Eresh if you have questions.

Questions, Comments, and Feedback? Feel free to contact me at www.wanda.leflore@slps.org



Kennard's PTO Movie Night is Friday, January 20. The doors open at 6:15pm and the movie, The Peanuts Movie, begins at 7:00pm. Bring your family for the fun!

National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS): 4th and 5th graders that met the criteria received NEHS applications in January. Our chapter will recognize students for their outstanding academic achievement, meaningful service to the school and community, and essential leadership skills. To be considered for membership in the NEHS a student must be in grades 4 or 5 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. **NEHS inductions are Thursday, February 23 at 6:00pm.** Contact 5th grade teacher Jennifer Beffa at www.jennifer.beffa@slps.org for additional information.

National School Counseling Week: Celebrate February 6-10 to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems. Please take some time to thank **Counselor Whitney Mitchell** for helping our students achieve school success!

Principal Intern: The Human Resources Department has approved a Principal Intern for Kennard this semester. Please join me as I welcome **Michel Brindell**, a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program at Saint Louis University to Kennard.



Science Fair: We have two exciting science events coming up in March and April; the SLPS District Science Fair and the Academy of Science St. Louis Science Fair at Queeny Park. These are two opportunities for students to take their science learning beyond the school level. All students in 4th and 5th grade are in the process of completing a science fair project using an experimental design method. **5th grade projects were due on January 11th and 4th grade projects are due on February 8th.**

The projects will be judged at the building level in the two weeks after their respective due dates. At the end of February, students and families will be notified if their project has been chosen to compete at Queeny Park or the SLPS Science Fair. We have a limited number of spaces available at each venue. To make sure the greatest number of students get the opportunity to participate, projects will only be eligible to go to one of the fairs. Also, volunteers are needed to judge projects at Queeny Park. If you would like more information regarding science fairs please contact Jamie Spitznagel at Jamie.spitznagel@slps.org.

School Tours: The next school tour is **Thursday, January 26th at 10:00am**. Go to www.KennardTours@gmail.com to sign up. Share this information with interested families.



3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will have an opportunity to share their talents with our learning community on Friday, February 24 at 1:30pm in the gym. Sign-ups begin soon. Contact Laura Macheca at www.laura.macheca@slps.org for more information.

University of Missouri Extension/Robotics classes are currently in session: The **Introductory** class meets on: **Monday:** January 9, 23, and 30; February 6, 13, and 27; March 6 and 13. The **Advanced** class meets on: **Wednesday:** January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1. Families may park on the bus lot, enter Door #5, and proceed to the library to sign-in their child. If you have questions, please contact Vince McKinney at mckinneyv@missouri.edu or by phone at 314-400-7375 or Bailey Lutz at lutzbn@missouri.edu.